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May 14, 2007

Ms. Catherine Witherspoon
Executive Officer
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Proposed Early Action Measures Under AB 32

Dear Ms. Witherspoon,

The California Air Pollution Control Officers Association is writing to support your efforts to identify discrete early action measures to help secure the earliest possible reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and to urge you to include additional measures and timeframes in your final proposal. We also would like to offer the support and resources of local air districts in developing and implementing early action measures.

Local air districts recognize the critical importance of early reductions to delay the approach of a climate change "tipping point" and to effect a meaningful slowing of the process of climate change. We also recognize the extraordinary resource demands facing the ARB as you implement the requirements of AB 32. We believe that by relying on local air districts for specific tasks, the ARB will be able to reserve crucial resources for those activities that should be developed and implemented centrally.

CAPCOA supports the inclusion of the measures listed in the ARB's April 20, 2007 draft proposal. We believe additional measures can and should be identified as Group 1 measures. We also believe that more specific time frames should be included for measures in Group 2 and Group 3. Most importantly, we believe there are existing processes and programs that can be effectively leveraged for early reductions of greenhouse gases, and we urge you to include specific tasks and milestones for them in your final list of measures.

The local districts understand the difficulties identifying specific measures that can be adopted and implemented in the short time period called for in AB 32. We recommend actions in five key areas that ARB can take to secure these reductions quickly and without investing significant additional resources.



Recommendation 1: Prioritize SIP rulemaking. CAPCOA recommends that ARB review proposed SIP measures and rank them on the basis of criteria pollutant reductions, public health protection, and greenhouse gas reduction potential. Rules that rank high in all three areas should be given higher priority in the rulemaking calendar. This additional review will not add substantially to workload already planned, but will define GHG reductions that can be achieved in the near term without compromising progress towards clean air or undermining protection of public health.

Recommendation 2: Review Existing Rules. CAPCOA recommends that you perform a review of existing state and local rules, similar to an "All Feasible Measures" review that would identify existing rules that, whether expressly intended or not, result in significant reductions of GHGs. Rules that are so identified could be more quickly adapted for statewide implementation and adopted by the ARB. Some local districts have already adopted and implemented regulations intended to reduce GHG emissions; many others have regulations for criteria pollutants which, by virtue of the way the rules are structured, also secure significant collateral GHG reductions. We believe that with a modest investment of resources, perhaps relying on a contractor who could work with a CAPCOA committee, ARB could identify rules with potential for statewide GHG reductions. Because these rules have already been adopted and implemented, much of the preparatory work has been done and the feasibility and costs are well documented; this should shorten both the time and resources needed for state rulemaking. CAPCOA has already begun this review and we look to share initial results with you in the near future.

CAPCOA also recommends that ARB use a focused workgroup process (which you have already discussed with us) to tap district staff resources and expertise with specific source categories to identify discrete early reductions that could be achieved in each category. We believe this process could identify early reduction potential in the six categories ARB has identified for reporting and rulemaking, and could be used to accomplish some of the necessary steps to speed adoption by the ARB. The workgroup process could also be used to build on the review of local regulations (described above) and identify opportunities for additional reductions of greenhouse gases within the existing air pollution program structure. Some local districts have already begun this review and others plan to begin soon. CAPCOA believes such a coordinated workgroup process could identify potential GHG reductions and secure them in the near term through local rule amendments that implement a consistent statewide standard – similar to a suggested control measure. We recommend that this process be included in your final list, and would be happy to work with you in defining an appropriate schedule and associated emission reduction potential.

Recommendation 3: Minimize Impacts of New Stationary Sources. CAPCOA recommends that ARB work with the districts to develop a coordinated approach to reviewing greenhouse gas emissions from significant stationary sources in categories that also emit significant amounts of GHGs. As you know, the most environmentally effective and cost effective emission reductions are those implemented before a project is built. The challenge of reaching the 1990 baseline will be easier to meet if we ensure that economic growth occurs along the path of least climate impact. Local air districts already require permits and preconstruction review for such sources, which provides an efficient and effective platform to identify and address GHG emissions from new or modified sources in categories of concern. ARB could establish a general framework for including a review of GHG emissions in the local permitting process. The framework should also identify appropriate local, regional, or global mitigation strategies. This process would be analogous to the development of review programs for toxic air contaminants in the late 1980s and early 1990s. In fact, because of district obligations under CEQA, districts may be required to address GHG emissions associated with new permits regardless of any action by ARB. The outcome would be better coordinated with ARB participation at the outset to identify the scope of the review and the mitigations to be considered.

Recommendation 4: Leverage CEQA Mitigations. CAPCOA recommends that ARB work with local districts to coordinate approaches to the review of GHGs under CEQA and capture the reductions that result from mitigation. Local air districts routinely review the impacts of a variety of development projects under CEQA. Local governments are currently contacting air districts with questions about how to incorporate climate change and address GHG emissions of projects, and are seeking specific guidance on GHG significance thresholds for projects. CAPCOA's Climate Protection Committee and Planning Managers Committee are working on this now, and we would like to include ARB staff in this effort. We believe that a focused effort to identify thresholds and mitigation measures could result in practical reductions in the near term through the CEQA process. We recommend that ARB include timelines and commitments to such a process on the early action measures list, and we would be happy to work with you on an appropriate schedule and associated emission reduction potential.

Recommendation 5: Capture Voluntary Reductions. CAPCOA recommends ARB work with local districts to establish mechanisms to promote, track, verify, and capture voluntary reductions in GHGs. As you are well aware, there is tremendous interest in voluntary reductions on the part of business, local government, and the general public. CAPCOA believes this interest should be aggressively pursued. Many local air districts are already working with local stakeholders to identify and organize voluntary reduction efforts. CAPCOA also has a Climate Protection Committee that is tasked, among other things, with compiling voluntary reduction strategies and other materials to support individual districts in this area. We suggest ARB work with us to compile information, and that ARB rely on local districts to help form your reporting, verification, and tracking structure for early reduction efforts. We believe ARB should include milestones for implementing this in your final list of measures, and will work with you to identify associated emission reduction targets.

Summary

In closing, CAPCOA applauds ARB's efforts to identify and secure early reductions of greenhouse gases under AB 32. We urge you to include additional Group 1 early action measures on your final list, and to establish time frames for the measures in Group 2 and Group 3. We specifically recommend that ARB 1) prioritize SIP reductions to maximize collateral GHG reductions, 2) review existing local rules to identify potential statewide measures or local enhancements, and use district resources in workgroup efforts on specific source categories with significant GHG emissions, 3) coordinate with districts on a strategy to use existing permit programs to review and mitigate greenhouse gases from significant stationary sources, 4) coordinate with districts on review and mitigation of GHGs under CEQA, and 5) rely on local air district resources to implement early reductions through coordinated voluntary programs,

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,



Larry R. Allen
President

From: "Jean Roggenkamp" <jroggenkamp@baaqmd.gov>
To: "Jerry Hill" <jhill@co.sanmateo.ca.us>
CC: "Jack Broadbent" <jbroadbent@baaqmd.gov>
Date: Monday - June 18, 2007 12:02 PM
Subject: Information re upcoming June 21st CARB hearing on Climate Protection items

Director Hill -

At the CARB Board meeting on June 21st, the CARB Board will consider two items related to climate protection:

- * Amendments to Emission Control and Smog Index labels for new vehicles to add a Global Warming Index label.
- * Approval of a list of proposed early action measures to reduce GHG as an AB 32 implementation step

The Global warming index label is a good idea.

The list of early action measures is somewhat disappointing and has not really changed in response to comments submitted by many stakeholders in mid-May. The most concise information for your review and consideration from an air district point of view is probably the CAPCOA letter sent to Catherine on the initial proposal. The CAPCOA letter suggests some additional measures for Group 1, the addition of timeframes for measures in Groups 2 and 3, and offers the expertise of the air districts to work with CARB given the intensive demands on CARB staff. To date, Catherine has only asked if the air districts can lend her our staff. I've attached a copy of the CAPCOA letter to Catherine dated May 14, 2007.

Please feel free to call me to discuss this issue or other issues on the CARB agenda. My office phone is 415-749-4646 and my cell phone is 415-760-1144.

Jean Roggenkamp

Deputy APCO